

Lead Member/Ambassador

Feedback Form 2015/16

Lead Member/Ambassador:

Councillor Lesley Rennie

Area of Responsibility:

Operational Preparedness

Supporting Officer:

3RD Officer Nick Searle

Number of meetings taken place between Lead Member/Ambassador and Supporting Officer during the year:

4

- 1. Please outline the nature of the meetings and any agreed outcomes, including any information, guidance and updates which have been provided to you with regard to developments in your area of responsibility.**

Outline Nature of Meetings:

All meetings have taken place in Nick Searle's office at the JCC. Meetings have consisted of a brief update on the current status of the Directorate followed by a review of progress on the Functional Plan objectives. Each meeting was attended by a member of the Democratic Services team. I also took the opportunity to meet with other Managers within the Directorate and visit Fire and Rescue Control.

Agreed Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input and discussion on the Ops Preparedness Directorate Functional Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the Business Continuity Department attached to Operational Intelligence. Exercise carried out on 13th May 2016.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been various National Resilience deployments during the year – Flooding in Cumbria, Flooding in North Yorkshire, Explosion and subsequent search at Bosley Mill Cheshire, Collapse at Didcot power station; • MFRS sent a response to each of the above which we discussed in our catch up meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of new Standard Operating Procedures in line with National Operational Guidance. Ops Prep have maintained a team who have been designated with this work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year has seen a successful audit of the JESIP principles by the HMI. JESIP has been mainstreamed within the Directorate and is now included in all guidance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful recruitment of Firefighters. A course has been run at the TDA of 16 firefighters who are now continuing development at Station 19, Croxteth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various exercises have been organised by the Directorate ranging from multi agency MTFA to COMAH. The most recent being a MTFA exercise in St Johns precinct and a COMAH exercise on the 12th May on the Wirral.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TDA has introduced a new course on Methods of Entry which has been completed by all Operational personnel. This has been designed due to issues raised by FF stating that door designers are making locking systems which are becoming impregnable. The course has been a success which we are sharing with Merseyside Police. • A new course on IOR (Initial Operational Response) has also been delivered to all personnel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops have introduced the new Fleet Management System which manages all vehicles and assets owned by MFRA. • This year has also seen the purchase on 3 new pumping appliance to align with the Service policy of all front line appliances being no older than 10 years.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New purchases by the Operational Equipment team have included, E Hydraulics for appliances, new door entry kit and battery operated saws. • A review of the training facilities at the TDA is in the process of being carried out which will result in new facilities to support the ongoing strategic direction for training. A proposal will be taken to SMG in July 2017 and once approved to Authority for further governance and approval.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the Functional plan, a review of the current MFRS Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) has been carried out which has resulted in the temporary employment of a business analyst to assist in the development of a new system. This work stream is ongoing however will be delivered in 2016/2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the Command Support arrangements has been carried out which has resulted in changes which include the writing of a tender document for a new Incident Command Vehicle and a SMG report on support for officers via Command Support arrangements within the JCC.

2. Have any reports been written in relation to this area of work, if so please confirm the title and meeting which the report was submitted to?

Report Title	Meeting
Numerous reports on the above have been written for the above.	All reports have either been to SMG or to Full Authority meetings.

3. What involvement did you have in the reporting process?

My views and observations were taken into account when formulating the reports. When reports were presented to SMG or Full Authority meeting I was able to make comment and contribute in the debate from of position of some knowledge.

4. What were the outcomes as a result of the report(s)?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As stated above, all items have been introduced into the Service over the last year. Several are works in progress and are either contained within the Operational Preparedness Functional plan 2016-17 or the IRMP.
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5. What other meetings within Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority or Partners, do you attend which have an influence on your Lead Member/Ambassador Area?

(i) I attend regular Committee meeting, scrutiny panels and Full Authority meetings.

(ii) I am a Member of the North West Fire Forum which shares best practice and new ideas regarding Operational Preparedness.

(iii) Regular meetings with local residents and Community Groups to explain to them and give assurance that MFRS is a first rate service and Operational Preparedness is well planned and delivered in a professional manner to ensure the safety of all residents, businesses both locally, nationally and internationally when called upon.

6. How has attending the above meetings assisted you in your role?

I have had the opportunity to understand the ways of working of this service department and have had one to one discussions with Officers and staff and the wider community.

7. How has undertaking the role as Lead Member/Ambassador enhanced your level of knowledge of this particular service area?

Lead Members are fortunate to be afforded the time and opportunity to scrutinise and support a particular Directorate. I hope the knowledge which I have gained can be shared with colleagues and the wider community to raise awareness of the Service. Knowledge gained should be knowledge shared.

8. Please detail any lessons learnt (e.g. what you would have liked to include or done differently)?

Increase the number of opportunities to have 'Round the Table', meet the Lead Member discussions with staff. This provides for open discussion opportunities for both sides to explore solutions to issues which are causing either concern or ideas for better ways of working.

9. What has been the main benefit to you or the Authority of your appointment in this role?

Knowledge gained and being able to openly discuss the working of the Directorate with senior officers and all staff members. I would wish to put on record my thanks to AM Searle and all his staff for their welcome and the time given to me.

10. Any other comments you would like to add

As a Lead Member I have had the advantage of gaining in depth knowledge of this service area. I have taken every opportunity whenever it was presented to me to meet on a one to one basis with MP's, MEP's, Government Ministers and Cabinet Members and Members of the House of Lords to raise the awareness of this service area.

11. Support Officer Comments:

The work carried out with Councillor Rennie over the last year has been invaluable to the Operational Preparedness Directorate. It has provided me the opportunity to discuss ongoing matters within the Directorate directly with the Fire Authority. It has ensured that I have had the opportunity to highlight the excellent work carried out by the Directorate teams to Councillor Rennie and subsequently afforded her the opportunity to meet with the teams in person.

I have also been able to discuss ongoing matters within the Directorate and how this will be viewed from an Authority perspective. Councillor Rennie has made it clear that if I need to discuss any matters or require advice/guidance she is always available to be contacted.